

CONFIDENTIAL

MAB 065
2 March 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS

THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group

SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Abidjan Bureau - February 1981

I. OPERATIONS

Communications

The problem with the Embassy's Skylink system that first cropped up in January and resulted in a three and a half day outage at that time persisted throughout the month of February, leaving the bureau without direct communications for most of the month. During the first two-week outage from 3-17 February, TCU was able to receive material from Washington through the Skylink, but Washington was unable to receive Abidjan's traffic. The system began working briefly on its own on 17-18 February, but then went down again with neither Abidjan nor Washington being able to receive traffic. At this point, a technician from the Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia, was sent to check the Skylink system here. The system again began operating on its own on 21 February but went down again the next day. Despite replacement of components in the Abidjan terminal, the problem has not been solved, and efforts to test the system have been hampered by the fact that when the HF backup link is operated to send and receive traffic, the Skylink system cannot be operated. Three subassemblies to replace those currently installed in the Abidjan terminal are being shipped to Abidjan and it is hoped that the problem will be overcome once these are in place. Meanwhile, the bureau continues to send and receive priority and above traffic via telex; more than 60 items were filed via telex during the month. Tapes of routine items are driven to the embassy for transmission via the HF backup link, through which the bureau also receives the bulk of its incoming material. No one at TCU is prepared to predict exactly when full Skylink service will be restored. (C)

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II. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

1. The bureau's new staff engineer, [redacted] and his wife [redacted] arrived in Abidjan on 18 February. After five weeks of overlap for extensive familiarization with local contacts, Tom will be replacing [redacted] who will depart PCS for London on 27 March. Once the hiring freeze is lifted, the bureau hopes to bring [redacted] on board as the part-time administrative assistant to replace [redacted] (U)

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2. French/English monitor trainee [redacted] departed on maternity leave on 23 February. (U)

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B. Buildings and Grounds

Negotiations on renewal of the lease on the bureau villa were begun during the month, with both sides agreeing to a ten percent rent increase effective in July for a term of three years. The deal will be completed once authorization has been received from the Department of State. Meanwhile, the leases on two bureau residences have been extended on the same terms for an additional two years. One of the residences concerned is next door to the bureau itself and of great operational importance since two antenna poles are located on the property. (U)

[redacted]

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Chief, Abidjan Bureau

Attachment: Monthly Production Report

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ABIDJAN BUREAU

MONTHLY PRODUCTION REPORT FOR FEB 1981

1. COVERAGE (Priority 1 and 2)

- a. Average daily hours of voice - 12.5
- b. Average daily hours of press service - 47
- c. Average daily hours of press - 4
(1/2 hour per paper)

2. Production (English)

- a. Average daily voice wordage 1,038.9
- b. Average daily press service wordage 146.8
- c. Average daily newspapers 20.7

3. Production (French)

- a. Average daily voice wordage 801.4
- b. Average daily press service wordage 1,029.3
- c. Average daily newspapers 140.0

4. Total Average Daily Publishable Wordage (2 plus 3) 3,477.1

5. Total daily average wordage of multipaper, multilanguage ~~353.2~~
and/or multisource roundups, program summaries filed as
a continuing requirement; commentary lists; cruising
messages: 353.2

6. Total Daily Average Filed wordage (4 plus 5) 3,730.3

7. Total number of ETG Abstracts for Month NA

8. Total number of items for month 362